



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 11

Special Commission Relative to Determining the Adequacy of the Water Supply in the Commonwealth Records, 1977-1983: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Massachusetts. General Court. Special Commission Relative to Determining the Adequacy of the Water Supply in the Commonwealth.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 11

Extent: 2 boxes (2 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Special Commission on Water Supply Records. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

Provenance: Received from the Special Commission Relative to Determining the Adequacy of the Water Supply in the Commonwealth.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Marc Widdershien, June 3, 1985. Revised by Mary Micarelli, January 7, 1992. Updated by Abigail Cramer, March 5, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents the work of the Special Commission, particularly regarding the Commission's research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection is comprised of research and studies conducted by the Commission or on behalf of the Commission. The collection includes information on the background of the Commission and its goals. There are reports relating to the search for the cause of the water shortage as well as material relating to meetings, memos, and legislation. Also included are reports, studies, research papers, and proposals conducted by other water-related agencies. They include reports on River Basin Planning and Groundwater Quality as well as research by the Aquifer Land Acquisition Committee, etc.

The remainder of the collection is composed of correspondence, memos, and meeting materials of other agencies. It also includes lists of water-related agencies, explanatory material relating to the reports, grant material, and editorials.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In response to a growing water shortage in the Commonwealth during the late 1970s, a number of initiatives at the state level were undertaken. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs embarked on a study of state water policy, which was published in 1978 as a final Environmental Impact Report and adopted as official state policy. At the same time, Representative John F. Cusack of Arlington began an effort to involve the Massachusetts Legislature by establishing a Legislative Commission to study Comprehensive Water Management and recommend legislation to implement the state's developing water supply policy. The Special Legislative Commission on the Adequacy of Water Supply in the Commonwealth was subsequently created by Chapter 13 of the Resolves of 1977 and continued by Chapter 14 of the Resolves of 1979.

The Senate President appointed Senator Carol C. Amick, Senate Chair Senator John W. Olver, and Senator William L. Saltonstall to the Commission. Members appointed by the Speaker of the House were Representatives John F. Cusack, House Chair, Representative Andrew J. Rogers, Jr., Representative Raymond A. Jordan, Jr., Representative Michael W. Morrissey, and Representative Peter L. McDowell. The Governor appointed Evelyn F. Murphy, George O'Brien, and David W. Stickel.

Under the leadership of Senate Chair Carol C. Amick and House Chair John F. Cusack, the Special Commission undertook a comprehensive examination of the state's most pressing water problems. The study results were submitted to the legislature in the form of two joint resolutions. The first established water conservation as the cornerstone issue and the second called for

implementing conservation measures and developing local supply alternatives. The General Court adopted these resolutions on June 27, 1978.

The Commission set as their goals short-term solutions for the most pressing local water issues. For long term goals, they held seminars, sent out questionnaires, and developed case studies for communities experiencing the most serious water shortage problems. Through these studies, the Commission developed many recommendations such as improved management of the Massachusetts District Commission, development of additional water supplies, creation of a state office of water conservation, and improved state regulations and management capabilities relative to water supplies. The Commission issued reports on chemical contamination in 1979 and 1981 and a three part report on the adequacy of the water supply in 1978, 1979 and 1980.

The Special Commission accomplished some of its goals by establishing a Water Quality Task Force to address chemical contamination of water supplies and by filing several bills aimed at increasing protection of the water supply and improving management of the Metropolitan Water District supply system. The Commission also studied the possibility of using groundwater supplies in the Commonwealth.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in four series as follows:

Series I: General, 1977-1983

Series II: Other Agencies, 1978-1983

Series III: Water Related General Information, Lists, Records, Definitions, Correspondence, Meetings, Memos, 1977-1983

Series IV: Miscellaneous, 1977-1983

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

Materials are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was received from the Massachusetts Special Legislative Commission Relative to Determining the Adequacy of the Water Supply in the Commonwealth.

Series Description and Container List

Series I: General, 1977-1983

Scope and Content

This series includes information on the background of the Commission and its goals. Also included are reports relating the search for the cause of the water shortage, correspondence, meeting minutes, memos, and other general information about the Commission.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	1	Resolve and Background Information	1977
1	2	List of Staff Members	undated, 1979
1	3	Financial Reports	1978-1982
1	4	Conference Reports	1978
1	5	Legislation	1978-1983
1	6-6a	Questionnaires	1981-1983
1	7	Special Projects	1980-1983
1	8	Work Plans	undated
1	9	Introductory Memo	1978
1	10	Working Paper	1983
1	10a	Chemical Contamination	Sept., 1979
1	11	Statement by Special Commission	1979
1	12-14	Reports on Adequacy of Water Supply, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Interim (3 folders)	1977-1980
1	15-16	Groundwater Studies (2 folders)	1980-1983

1	17	Massachusetts Water Supply Policy Statement	1978
1	18	Massachusetts Water Policy Planning Act	undated
1	19-20	Water Resources Management Planning Regulations (2 folders)	undated, 1978
1	21	Water Seminars	1979-1981
1	22-30	Correspondence	undated, 1975-1983
1	31-34	Meetings (4 folders)	1978-1982
1	35-37	Memos (3 folders)	undated, 1978-1983

Series II: Other Agencies, 1978-1983

Scope and Content

Included in this series are reports, studies, research papers, and proposals conducted by other water-related agencies, including reports on River Basin Planning and Groundwater Quality as well as research by the Aquifer Land Acquisition Committee. Also included are correspondence, memos, and meeting materials of other agencies.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	38	Annual Report, Massachusetts Water Commission	1981
1	39	Water Research Problems in New England	undated, 1978
1	40	Groundwater Steering Committee	1981-1983
1	41	Water Pricing	1982-1983
1	42	Aquifer Land Acquisition Committee, Information Gathered	1982-1983
1	43	Corps of Engineers Water Supply Study (Draft)	undated
1	44	Environmental Protection Agency, Water Conservation in New England	1978

1	45	Groundwater Quality Protection, A Guide for Local Officials	1982
1	46	DEQE, Hydrogeologic Information Matrix	1983
1	47	Proposals, Water Resources Commission and Other Interested Groups	1978
1	48	Massachusetts Water Resources Commission, Water Management Projects	1983
1	49	Massachusetts Water Resources Commission, River Basin Planning Program (Draft)	1979
1	50	Massachusetts Water Resources Commission, Protection of Groundwater Quantity and Quality Legislation	undated
2	51	Massachusetts Water Resources Commission, River Basin Planning	1978
2	52	Massachusetts Water Resources Commission, Road Salt Policy	1982
2	53-54	Massachusetts Water Resources Commission, River Basin Planning Program (2 folders)	1982
2	55	Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Conservation Advisory Committee	1982-1983
2	56	Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Water Rated Project	1979-1980
2	57	Water Supply and Demand, "Preserve and Conserve," Governor's Seminar on Water Management	1982
2	58	Studies on Water Related Problems	1979
2	59-60	Water Conservation Material (2 folders)	1983
2	61	General Advisory Committee on Water Supply	1982-1983

Series III: Water Related General Information, Lists, Records, Definitions, Correspondence, Meetings, Memos, 1977-1983

Scope and Content

This series includes general materials related to water, lists of communities with water shortages, rules and regulations related to water supplies, definitions of water-related terminology, meeting materials from various agencies, and legislation created by other agencies.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
2	62	Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Project Management System	1981
2	63	The Water Resource Commission's Record	1980-1982
2	64	Water Short Communities, List	undated
2	65	Concentration of Sodium in Public Water Supplies, List of Areas	1981
2	66	Public Water Supply Agencies	undated
2	67	Waterwell Rules and Regulations	1980
2	68	Groundwater Survey Program	undated
2	69	Water Study Figures, MDC	1981
2	70	Definitions of Words Used to Describe Water Problems	undated
2	71	Water Involved State Agencies, List	1978
2	72-76	Meeting Materials, Various Agencies (5 folders)	1979-1982
2	77-81	Memos, Other Agencies (5 folders)	1977-1983
2	82	Legislation, Other Agencies	1979

Series IV: Miscellaneous, 1977-1983

Scope and Content

This series includes, newspaper clippings, editorials, photographs, budget information, miscellaneous reports, information about the Boston Harbor Conference, information about Water Conservation Week, and informational brochures related to water supply issues.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
2	83	Newspaper Clippings	1977-1978
2	84	General Press Material	1977-1983
2	85	Editorial Rebuttal, Channel 5	1981-1982
2	86	Editorials, Channel 4	1982
2	87	Photographs, Water Conservation Equipment	1981
2	88	Budget Materials, Various Agencies	1979-1983
2	89-90	Annual Meeting of Water Users (2 folders)	1982
2	91-93	Material Relating to Grant Awards (3 folders)	1982-1983
2	94	Miscellaneous Reports	1981-1982
2	95	Boston Harbor Conference	1982
2	96	Water Conservation Week, Proclamation	1983
2	97-99	Brochures (3 folders)	undated